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and the latter are so short and broad that they are almost moniliform. The hindmost two or three pairs of feet are roughened by small black acute spines, which are especially pronounced on their femora and tibiæ. The last pair are very much longer than any of the others and, when preserved in alcohol, the last three joints are bent into the form of a triangle, so that the terminal claw rests on the tibiæ-tarsal articulation, pointing inwards; the femora and tibiæ are almost covered with the very numerous black spines. In most specimens there is a sharp black spinule on the upper posterior angle of the lateral anal appendages. I am indebted to Prof. Leidy for my specimens of this species. He caught them in the woods on the Alleghanies of Montgomery County, Virginia.

Gen. LITHOBIUS.

*L. bilabiatus*, sp. nov.

*L. brunneus*; segmento cephalico sparse leviter punctato, late subcordato, margine postico elevato; antennis modice longis, nonnihil pubescentibus; ocellis utrinque 13; labio antice producto, sine laminis dentalibus distinctis, cum lateribus sejunctis usque ad basem; dentibus sejunctis 4—6; scutorum marginibus posticis rectis, angulis haud productis; pedum pare postremo in mare magno, processibus magnis duobus utrinque armato.

The general color of this species is a dark brown, with the labium and feet lighter, somewhat approaching ferruginous. In the male the last segment with its appendages is much lighter than the rest of the body. The cephalic segment is very broad in the male, much broader than the anterior portion of the body. The labium is produced forward in such a way that there are no distinct dental laminae. The two halves are separated or merely joined by a membrane almost to their base. Anteriorly they are very close to one another, but then separate so as to make an elliptical opening closed by a thin membrane and a little ligula-like process projecting on the superior portion. The styliform appendages of the anal segment appear to be wanting in the male. The margins of the scuta are remarkably straight, the angles generally rounded, so that they are not all emarginate. The feet generally are robust and somewhat compressed. In the male the hindmost ones are very large, the coxæ short, the thigh short with the distal internal angle prolonged into a well-pronounced process surmounted by numerous spines; the next joint is large, with a long, robust, curved process projecting inwards from its proximal third, and also a small, nearly cylindrical one on its distal inner angle.

In the female the next to last pair of feet is larger than those anterior to it; the last pair long, cylindrical, still larger, without processes, but with numerous spines on the enlarged distal end of the thigh. I am indebted to the well-known entomologist, Mr. Walsh, of Rock Island, Illinois, for a male and female of this species, by whom they were captured in the vicinity of his home.

Length,  $\frac{3}{4}$  an inch.

**Note on GEOTRYGON SYLVATICA, Gosse.**

BY RICHARD HILL.

(Communicated by Thomas Bland, New York.)

*Spanish Town, Jamaica, 7th June, 1867.*

TO THOMAS BLAND, Esq.:

*My Dear Sir:*—In examining, the other day, our large ground dove, found only in solitary places in our mountain forests, (the bird familiar to you by the name of the mountain witch, but so named less from the beauty of its coloring than from its mysterious movements—moaning in the underwood,) it struck me that, in habits and contour, it had an apparent relation to the extinct *Dodo*, the *Didus ineptus* of naturalists. A careful examination of the only remains of the *Dodo*,—the head and foot in the British Museum,—establishes

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that it was one of the Columbidae. Our mountain ground dove is the *Geotrygon sylvatica* of Gosse. Its habits are solitary; it is of a thick, heavy form; seldom seen on the wing; feeds on the ground, and has a moaning coo.

The *Geotrygon sylvatica* varies in plumage from light bright tints to a sombre blending of bronze and claret-purple. It is drab colored on the head, varying from blue to dull yellow. The feathers fall into a kind of hood, and the plumage of the breast to the legs is edged so as to appear scaled. A scaled feathering prevails in all the under plumage. It resembles in this peculiarity the *Carpophaga* of Eastern Australia; a style of feathering rare in doves, but characterizing the Dodo. Our bird is such a lover of solitude that it is seldom seen; few know its habits, beyond the lonely moaning and the uncertain movements that render the tracing of it difficult in the forest.

Our bird is the largest of our doves; as big as a pullet. The bill has considerable curvature and fleshiness, large and strong. It would be easy, by studied exaggeration of the rounded heavy contour, with the pigeon beak, and the dumpy goose-shape, to make out the Dodo-form, between the figures of Bontius and Leguat. We have only to elevate it into its habitual stride, and we have the stateliness and grace in Leguat's description of the solitary bird of the Island of Rodrigo. That description is just our mountain-witch, grown to the size of a turkey.

Our bird is noticeable for its rasorial scratching, if that habit be correctly reported. It is said to take in occasionally such molluscous food as the snail, with the eggs of termites. Mr. Gosse's information relative to mollusks is very precise. He detected the snail among the contents of its craw. This is a great deviation from the pigeon character. Pigeon food only varies from grain by the occasional mixture of the young shoots of such succulent herbage as turnip tops.

Sir Hans Sloane has in his manuscript notes an observation made by L'Es-trange on the living Dodo. It is introduced as an annotation by Wilkins in Pickering's edition of Sir Thomas Brown's "Vulgar Errors." "About 1638 as I walked London streets I saw the picture of a strange fowle hong out upon a cloth, ————vas\* and myselfe with one or two more Gent, in company went in to see it. It was kept in a chamber, and was a great fowle somewhat bigger than the largest Turkey Cock and so legged and footed, but stouter and thicker, and of a more erect shape, coloured before like the breast of a young cock Fisan (pheasant) and on the back of dunn or deare colour. The keeper called it a Dodo and in the ende of a chimney in the chamber there lay a heape of large pebblestones whereof hee gave it many in our sight, some as big as nutmegs."

Yours, &c.,

RICHARD HILL.

November 5th.

The President, DR. HAYS, in the Chair.

Thirty-two members present.

Prof. E. D. Cope presented to the Academy specimens of four extinct species of Mammalia, which were discovered by Jas. T. Thomas, in the Miocene deposits of the Yorktown epoch in Charles Co., Maryland.

The first was a species of the genus *Eschrichtius*, to which the recent hump-back whale is allied, of a species not previously known. It was called *E. CEPHALUS* Cope. The remains preserved were a considerable portion of the muzzle, both rami of the mandible, several vertebrae, and a considerable number of pieces of the hand, with ulna, humerus, etc. Other specimens, previously presented to the Academy, probably belonging to the same species, were some cervical and dorsal vertebrae, portions of cranium and os petrosium

\* The name is in part erased, perhaps it was Gervas, for Gervas Hollis, the antiquary. 1867.]